

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01
ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NRC-05 OES-06 DODE-00 ERDA-05 USIE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 COME-00 FPC-01 H-01 INT-05 OMB-01 PM-04
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
/121 W

-----041042Z 049671 /10

O R 040950Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6651

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USMISSION OECD PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4768

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ENRG, JA, US, FR, GW

SUBJECT: GOJ REPROCESSING STANCE

REF: TOKYO 4586

SUMMARY. PRESS REPORTS APRIL 4 SUGGEST GOJ REPROCESSING
NEGOTIATORS NOW IN WASHINGTON WILL, IF UNSUCCECCFUL
IN OBTAINING USG "APPROVAL" FOR START-UP OF JAPANESE
REPROCESSING FACILITY, EXPLORE COMPROMISE FORMMULATION.
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GIVEN THIS INDICATION OF POSSIBLE GOJ FLEXIBILITY, WE
BELIEVE IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT WE GIVE JAPANESE
NEGOTIATORS CAREFUL HEARING AND CONTINUE TALKING IF
WE ARE TO AVOID FURTHER COMPLICATION OF ISSUE BY
JAPANESE EMOTIONALISM. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO ASAHI FRONT-PAGE REPORT, USG WILL

ANNOUNCE ITS DOMESTIC NUCLEAR POLICY DURING WEEK OF APRIL 4-8. ACCOUNT STATES THAT USG HAS ALREADY URGED JAPAN TO AGREE TO COMPLETE AN INDEFINITE SUSPENSION OF REPROCESSING AND WILL ASK SAME OF WEST GERMANY AND FRANCE. THIS STANCE RUNS DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO JAPANESE DESIRE FOR TEST OPERATION OF ITS TOKAI MURA REPROCESSING PLANT IN JULY. BUT, ACCOUNT CONTINUES, MITI SOURCE BELIEVES THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTION (CO-PROCESSING) SATISFYING BOTH JAPANESE REPROCESSING DESIRES AND US PROLIFERATION CONCERNS.

2. ACCOUNT ASSERTS THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL USE ITS DOMESTIC NUCLEAR POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT AND JAPANESE NEGOTIATIONS AS ELEMENTS IN ITS EFFORTS TO PERSUADE WEST GERMANY AND FRANCE TO ACCEPT CARTER ADMINISTRATION NUCLEAR POLICY. THEREAFTER, INTERNATIONAL REACTION WILL BE FACTORED INTO CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S APRIL 20 MESSAGE TO CONGRESS AND ISSUE ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE CARRIED OVER TO LONDON CONFERENCE.

3. PRESS REPORT QUOTES MITI SOURCE AS SAYING MITI BELIEVES US GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS FIRM STANCE OF GOJ AND JAPANESE PEOPLE ON NEED FOR REPROCESSING CAPABILITY. IF IN ADDITION, GOJ DISPLAYS UNDERSTANDING FOR USG'S REPROCESSING CONCERNS AND WORKS TOWARD COMPROMISE, USG MAY WELL MOVE TOWARD GOJ POSITION.

4. NIHON KEIZAI NEWSPAPER LEAD ARTICLE CARRIED SIMILAR ACCOUNT BUT WITH ADDITIONAL STRESS ON POSSIBILITIES OF CONFIDENTIAL

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"NEW" JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY AS BASIS FOR COMPROMISE AND TIME-CONSUMING NECESSITY OF OBTAINING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO CARTER ADMINISTRATION NUCLEAR PROPOSALS.

5. SEPARATE ASAHI ARTICLE ON GOJ NEGOTIATING POSTURE SAID GOJ NEGOTIATING TEAM WILL EMPHASIZE JAPAN'S NEED FOR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR ENERGY AND STRONGLY REQUEST US GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF TOKAI MURA REPROCESSING FACILITY. IT STRESSED GOJ WOULD NOT "PETITION" USG, HOWEVER, BUT RATHER WOULD TACKLE ISSUE POSITIVELY, AS AN EQUAL, EXPLORING WITH US CONCRETE PLANS WHICH WOULD SATISFY JAPANESE ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AND USG PROLIFERATION CONCERNS. ACCOUNT STATES GOJ IS TAKING THIS POSITION BECAUSE, FIRST, IT BELIEVES USG DETERMINED TO REJECT REPROCESSING TO PREVENT PROLIFERATION AND, DESPITE GREAT EFFORT, IS UNABLE TO FIND COMPROMISE SOLUTION. THUS JAPAN, RATHER THAN PLEAD FOR WHAT US WILL NOT GIVE, SHOULD BRING RESOURCEFULNESS TO BEAR TO FIND ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE. SECOND IS DANGER THAT IF GOJ DEMANDS WERE

TOTALLY REJECTED, A STRONG JAPANESE EMOTIONAL REACTION
CRITICAL OF US POSTURE COULD ARISE BASED ON BELIEF THAT
US WISHES TO MONOPOLIZE WORLD NUCLEAR ENERGY. ACCOUNT
NOTES ALREADY SHARP CRITICISM OF US IN DIET, ASSERTING
"BIG POWER ARBITRARINESS." THIRD, JAPAN, WITH UNIQUE
NUCLEAR HISTORY, MUST APPRECIATE US PROLIFERATION
CONCERNS. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, US WOULD GUARANTEE JAPAN
SUPPLIES OF ENRICHED URANIUM AND REPROCESSING AND
WOULD "PROTECT" JAPAN'S "ENERGY STRUCTURE," IT WOULD BE
DIFFICULT FOR JAPAN TO REFUSE A REPROCESSING
FREEZE FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS AND INSIST ON ITS OWN
REPROCESSING CAPABILITY IMMEDIATELY.

6. COMMENT. IT APPEARS THERE ARE PEOPLE IN GOJ WHO ARE
SEEKING ACCOMMODATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION. IT IS
MOST IMPORTANT THAT WE STRIKE A POSITIVE NOTE IN OUR
NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPANESE, LISTENING CAREFULLY, WORKING
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TOWARD COMMON GROUND WHERE THAT IS POSSIBLE, AND BEING
CAREFUL TO LEAVE IMPRESSION THAT TALKS ARE CONTINUING.
AS LOWER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
TAKEUCHI TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 4, JAPANESE POPULAR EMOTIONAL
REACTION IS NOT YET A MAJOR POLITICAL FACTOR TO CONTEND
WITH BUT, IF USG GIVES IMPRESSION IT IS NOT LISTENING
TO JAPANESE NEGOTIATORS OR IS ADAMANT IN INSISTING ON ITS
OWN WAY, EMOTIONAL REACTION COULD SOON MOUNT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CONSTRUCTION, POLICIES, NEGOTIATIONS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
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Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO04768
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770116-0455
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770489/aaaaczvx.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
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Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TOKYO 4586
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2900101
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOJ REPROCESSING STANCE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ENRG, JA, US, FR, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/735579aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009